

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 28786 051258Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 051235Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4890

INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 28786

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, TS

SUBJECT: GISCARD'S VISIT TO TUNISIA

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AFRICA D'ALBIS HAS TOLD US GISCARD'S NOVEMBER 6 - 8 VISIT TO TUNISIA IS DESIGNED TO ROUND OUT AND BALANCE THE PRESIDENT'S EARLIER VISITS TO ALGIERS AND RABAT AND TO PAY HOMAGE BOTH TO BOURGUIBA AS SENIOR ARAB STATESMAN AND FRIEND OF FRANCE, AND TO TUNISIA AS A COUNTRY WHICH HAS DELIBERATELY CHOSEN A POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WEST. WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OCTOBER 31 OF THE DEBLOCK-ING OF FRENCH ACCOUNTS IN TUNISIA AND THE RECENT GOF DECISION NOT TO PRESS FURTHER THE FRENCH CLAIMS FOR NATIONALIZED LAND, THE ONLY SERIOUS DISPUTES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN LAID TO REST, ALBIS SAID, AND THE VISIT IS EXPECTED TO BE VERY WARM AND FRIENDLY.

2. IN ADDITION TO INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS, NOTABLY THE MIDDLE EAST, SUBJECTS EXPECTED TO BE DISCUSSED INCLUDE TUNISIA'S UNFAVORABLE TRADE BALANCE WITH FRANCE, FRANCO-TUNISIAN COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY IN THE CULTURAL REALM
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PAGE 02 PARIS 28786 051258Z

WHERE TUNISIA'S OPTION FOR BILINGUALISM AND BOURGUIBA'S

PROMOTION OF FRANCOPHONIE MAKE TUNISIA A COURTED
PARTNER, AND TUNISIAN-EC RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY OPENING
THE EC MARKET TO OLIVE OIL.

3. COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO THE REASONS CITED BY ALBIS,
GISCARD'S VISIT IS PART OF THE PRESIDENT'S WIDER DESIGN
TO STRENGTHEN FRENCH RELATIONS WITH THE THIRD WORLD,
WITH EMPHASIS ON ITS ARAB AND AFRICAN MEMBERS.
RUSH

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